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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Note by the Administrator

I. THE PROGRAMMING PROCESS

1. The fourth country programme for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic was prepared in the context of the historical change that recently took place in the Central and Eastern European region.

2. Czechoslovakia, which had voluntarily relinquished its IPF at the beginning of the fourth cycle, requested to be reinstated in recipient status under net contributor country arrangements in 1990. There was thus no fourth country programme to follow on. The basic lines of the programme were worked out during a series of missions in 1990-1991; at the same time, UNDP's strategy for the European economies in transition was synthesized in a conference room paper presented to the June 1991 session of the Governing Council. Besides the establishment of common thematic thrusts, one main outcome was the agreement to aim for comprehensive programmes co-financed by other key donors. This was reflected in UNDP's advisory note and it is reflected in the present country programme document.

II. ANALYTICAL COMMENTARY ON THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

3. The country programme is closely in line with the recommendations contained in UNDP's advisory note, both as regards the main areas of focus and the implementation aspects. The Government identified six programme areas:

(a) Restructuring of the economy and support for the private sector;

(b) Management development, training and human resources development;

(c) Environmental management;

(d) Telecommunications development;

(e) National statistics;

(f) Umbrella activities.

These areas are linked by the overall objective of furthering human development through transition to a market economy; the most important underlying theme is management development. TCDC and the advancement of women will be given particular attention.

III. MANAGEMENT OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

4. As mentioned above, a major aspect of this programme is the proposed combination of UNDP resources with cost-sharing and other co-financing modalities, in order to achieve a meaningful programme with the modest IPF resources at the country's disposal. This objective will be pursued within the framework of a programme approach integrating other technical assistance programmes and UNDP's comparative advantages.

5. National execution is being introduced.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

6. On the basis of the above, the Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.